



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2010

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CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus joins many Californians today in recognizing the Day of Remembrance. The Day of Remembrance is observed annually to commemorate the internment of Japanese Americans and Japanese permanent residents during World War II. Assemblymember Steve Bradford (D – Gardena) has introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 114 to formally recognize February 19th, 2010, as the Day of Remembrance.

“Executive Order 9066 led to the systematic round-up and interment of 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese permanent residents in camps across the United States. Japanese interment forced families and individuals to abandon their homes, education, jobs and possessions,” stated Assemblymember Bradford, “It is imperative that we recognize and reflect on this unfortunate chapter of history to make sure that such an injustice is never inflicted on anybody again.”

On January 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which forced Japanese Americans and residents of Japanese descent into internment camps. Almost 29,000 of those incarcerated individuals were held at camps in California at Tule Lake and Manzanar. Commemorative events are still held at those former internment camp sites annually.

While their families were incarcerated and kept confined inside barbed wired fences, approximately 33,000 men of Japanese ancestry volunteered in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. These groups suffered nearly 10,000 casualties collectively and are honored as World War II’s most decorated combat teams. 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry also served with the Military Intelligence Service and are credited with shortening the war for their contributions in the service.

“My mother and father were incarcerated at Rohwer and Jerome, Arkansas. The internment camps were a direct violation of the very thing that Americans value most, democracy,” stated Assemblymember Warren Furutani (D-South LA County), chair of the API Legislative Caucus, “The internment of Japanese Americans must not lie in the dark and be buried underneath the dust but unearthed to remind us of our mistakes. With those mistakes in mind, we must continue in a path that ensures equality for all even in the midst of fear and confusion.”

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